THE ROYAL COMMODITY.

Interesting Details Regarding the Production of Cotton.

WORK ON A TEXAS PLANTATION.

How Crops are Raised and Prepared for the Market.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF LABOR.

Comparative Acreage and Expense in Various States.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

Below will be found replies to a series of questions, asked through a circular letter, regarding the production of cotton. I have selected mainly those replies which give the results of the cultivation of cotton land in small parcels, and have condensed the questions and answers:No. 1.-My farm is in Navarro county, Texas. The

land is both sandy and stiff black soil. The farms are small, averaging 50 acres each, and are worked mostly by owners; 100 acres were planted in cotton in 1876 to 1860. The average number of acres to a hand is 15. No fertilizers are bought and none used but cotton seed. The average crop of clean cotton to the acre is 300 pounds. The seed is worth 5 to 10 cents a bushel; it is fed to stock, used as a fertilizer or mostly wasted. The largest crop of lint or clean cotton per acre within my knowledge is 1,100 pounds; 500 to 600 pounds often made. Much attenon is being given to new varieties with an increase of 25 to 50 per cent in the yield. Improved gins are being used with self-feeders, securing evenness of The crops of small farmers are baled by hand There is great room for improvement; the lint should be carried to the press box by machinery to secure freedom from dirt and from mixed packing. Four-fifths of the labor here is white. Very much better tools are being used than formerly. Negroes are not migrating to or from our county, and about 1 in 100 are becoming owners of land. The cost of producing sotton varies according to soil, character of tools and efficiency of labor-say, 7c. to 11c. We raise our own corn and meat, with increasing tendency to do so around us. Villages are increasing in number and size. We succeed in hiring extra hands in the picking season, but at high prices, resulting in dethe high price of picking and want of more thorough The advantages of our section are capacity to from the ravages of worms and insects. Immigrants are much needed. The inducements are fertile land at low prices for sale or rent, a healthy climate and, as a reward for industry, the speedy acquirement of a comfortable home in the most favored of Southern

STATEMENT OF A CHOP. No. 2.-The statement made by Mr. Cochran, of Dallas county, Texas, is one of the most instructive,

Dallas county, Texas, is one of the most instructive, and, by his permission, I give it in full:

Statement of the crop made by John H. Cochran, of Dallas. Texas, in the season of 1876:—

Cotton—Cultivated, 50 acres; made 31 bales of 500 pounds each; crop cut short by excessive dry weather in July and August. Corn—56 acres; over 2,000 bushels; fed the rest in the sheat; crop about 40 bushels to the acre. Meat—4,500 lbs. pork; 11 hogs, at 18 months old, weighed 3,258 lbs. Other products—577 bushels wheat; wheat was injured somewhat by rust; quality good. Hands employed for cultivation, 5—2 on wages and 3 texants for part of the crop. Extra hands in picking, 3 extra for one month, wheat sowing and cotton picking coming together. I always allow 10 acres of small grain, 10 of coru and 8 of cotton to the hand, and by proper mangement they can be saeded, cultivated and gathered without extra labor, besides saving hay and doing other necessary farm work.

The following are Mr. Cochran's replies to questions asked. They give an interesting view of the growth

asked. They give an interesting view of the growth and condition of a Texas county :-

and condition of a Texas county:—
Q. Where is your farm or plantation? A. Dallas county, Texas.
Q. What is the character of the soil? A. Rich, black, waxy prarie.
Q. How is land divided near you, in small or large parcers? What is the average size of plantation or larm? A. 160 to 2,000 acres; average farm, including pastures and outlands, 520 acres.
Q. Is it mostly worked by owners or lessees? A. About equally divided.
Q. What is the increase or decrease of acreage in cotton since 1800? A. More than 1,000 per cent increase; there was but little cotton raised in the county until

there was but little cotton raised in the county until
the rairroad reached us in 1870.

Q. What is the average number of acres to a hand?

A. Eight acres of cotton; crops are diversibled—cotton,
wheat, oats and corn.

Q. What iortilizers, if any, are used? A. No fertilizers have ever been used and none are needed. Q. What is the average crop of lint or clean cotton per acre? What was the average before the war? A. about 400 pounds.

bout 400 pounds.
Q. What is done with the seed? A. Fed to stock rewasted; oil incrory just established at Dalias.
Q. What is its value if sold? A. 10 to 15 cents per

what is the largest crop of lint or clean cotton acre within your knowledge? A. 750 pounds Q. What is the largest crop of fint or clean cotton per acre within your knowledge? A. 750 pounds raised on my farm in 1870.

Q. What do you consider the largest possible crop per acre? A. Some claim 1,000 pounds, but the scason must be extraordinary.

Q. What is the largest crop per acre that it would be profitable to try to obtain? A. The greater the yield the greater the profit.

Q. Is attention being given to obtaining new and more profite varieties of seed? A. Yes, and to quality of staple also.

Q. Is attention being given to obtaining new and more profile varieties of seed? A. Yes, and to quality of staple also.

Q. With what success? A. Very satisfactory and profitable results.

Q. What is the method of ginning? A. Generally steam and horse power, with improved gins; but low larmers own their own gins.

Q. Are improvements in ginning being made? A. Yes; self-leeders and trash cleanors are beginning to be used successfully.

Q. How are the crops of small cultivators ginned and baied? A. By owners of gins for a given portion of the cotton—from one-tenth to one-twelfth.

Q. What iurther improvements do you see in prospect in ginning and baing? A. Two large compressors are in operation in Dallas.

Q. To what extent is your crop raised by white labor?

A. To its utmost.

Q. Are better tools now used than formerly? A.

Occidedly.

Q. Have any attempts been made to start cotton clants under glass or canvas frames? A. Not that I

plants under glass or canvas frames? A. Not that I know of.

Q. To what extent are negroes becoming owners of land? A. Very limited; their highest ambition seems to be to get into towns or villages and own a small lot and cabin on the sabarb.

Q. What do you estimate the cost of producing cotton? A. Taking cost of labor, rent of land, feed of hands, taxes and ginning, transportation to gin and then to market into consideration, I estimate the cost at about eight to nine cents per pound.

Q. Do you raise your own corn and meat? A. I do, and to seil.

to sell.

What new crops are being introduced? A. I do know of any, as we raise wheat, corn, oats, barley, and sorghum successfully.

Are villages increasing in number and size? A. Q. Are villages increasing in Very rapidly. Q. What new employments or manufactures are be

established? A. Large fron foundry, small wooller b, wagon lactory, two cotton compressors, large grant vator, six sarge flouring mills and a distillery in the of Dairas.
Do you succeed in hiring all the extra hands you in the picking season? A. I do, but labor is yet

or high.

e. What are the drawbacks to greater success? A.

Ve need more and cheaper labor to cultivate and gather
ur diversited crops.

Q. What advantages do you claim for your section?

A. Rich and productive soil, diversity of crops, genial
limite, good local government.

Q. Are limingrants wanted? A. Yes—with a wel-Q. What inducements are offered? A. Rich land,

Q. What inducements are offered? A. Rich land, diversited crops, genial climate, ready market, good wages, cheap living, protection to life, liberty and property and low taxes.

Q. What results in number and general character?

A. The immigration has been very heavy for the last lew years, from the rich to the poorest.

Q. Where from? A. From the lour quarters of the globe; mostly from the Southern and Guif States.

Q. What do you need to reduce the cost of marketing your cotton? A. Cheaper transportation is about all.

Q. Are there cotton mills near you? A. None.

Wo 3 -- From one of the tertile counties in Missis sissippi comes the statement that the crop per acre is white labor, the negro coming and going like the Wan-dering Jow, never working when he has anything to

spend, and that the cost of cotton is 14c. to 15c.

Land is cheap and immigrants much desired. The drawbacks to success are stated as follows:-- The interference of foreign capital through the local mer-chants in aningonism to the landholder. Capital through the local merchants has pandered to the nat-urally indelent and careless disposition of the negro, who loves to spend a large part of his time in happy idieness, encouraging him to rent land and be the master of his own time rather than hire to the land. holder, by advancing to him a scanty supply of food and clothing, charging him their own prices, for which they get the entire product of the labor (except a small rent), they paying no wages and placing the cost of cotton much below the true cost of production; with which state of affairs the honest landholder who pays wages for his labor cannot compete "

No. 4. From Morgan county, Ga., the following statement is sent:—"The largest crop of cotton ever made in Georgia was by Mr. Thomas Worthen, of Washington county, latitude 32. Mr. Worthen planted an acre of common land for a State fair prize, and manured it as highly as human avarice could desire, then ploughed and ploughed until the soil was broken up and mixed and made perfect for germinating seed and producing the plant. The season being propitious, he made, as was testified by his neighbors, five bales, or nearly 2,500 pounds of lint or staple and 4,500 pounds of seed. The record of what I write is recorded in the books of the State Agricultural Society of Georgia." The same correspondent writes:—"We have now but few large farms; the larger the larm the more certain small farms, and the farmer who can make 500 pounds of lint cotton on an acre, 30 bushels of corn and 20 of makes only 500 pounds on two acres, 20 bushels of corn and 15 of wheat we call it remouerative, our land is so wheat and oats with cotton, work a good garden raise sweet potatoes do well, enjoy good health and eat the peaches, grapes and other fruit which are indigenous here. We have one of the best countries, taken in its totality, that God ever made. I have seen all the North, Middle States, much of the West, and was a farmer thirty years in the rich alluviai lands of Texas, but Middle Georgia is the perfection of countries in soil, climate, timber, water-pure granite and freestone water—with never failing rivers competent to spin all the cotton we can make."

No. 5. Another gentleman, a native of Middle Texas. writes as follows:-"Hard working, industrious farmers, who go on their own labor, make money, especially the Germans. Many of my near neighbors make and meat to do them, but these are the outside figures. A new line of policy is being adopted by the large more attention to meat and grain, making cotton a railroad on each side of us, and would gladly welcome immigrants in yet larger numbers. Party lines have about died out, and no one is questioned or consured about his political opinions any more than about his church affairs."

No. 6. A farmer who lives on the sandy pine land of Alabama reports the average crop per acre about 150 pounds, but that with good cultivation a bale to the acro can be castly made, the drawbacks to greater success—the unreliable character of the labor and the want of economy, "not yet having learned how to save as well as to make." His remedy for the evil of the day is well stated in the following words:-"I beheve that the prosperity of the Southern people de-pends upon low cotton, because as cotton advances our people will jabandon and neglect all other crops for it, and will immediately return to their extravagant

No. 7. A crop statement from Lee county, Texas, gives the following products from "10 hands, including 3 boys":-Cotton, 50 bales; corn, 1,500 bushels; potatoes, 100 bushess; some barley; pork, 3,000 pounds; good beeves 40. This gentleman estimates the cost of cotton at 8 cents, adding, "it costs more to pick than it does to raise." No fertilizers used and none needed. Average crop, 300 to 500 pounds. & special acre, carefully cultivated, produced, from im-

proved seed, 1,000 pounds.

No. 8. Another Texas farmer, in Lamar county, reports:—16 hands; crop, 41 bales cotton, 4,000 bushels corn, 2,000 bushels oats, 100 bushels Irish and 100 bushels sweet poistoes, 3,000 pounds pork. Adding, "The same acreage in 1875 produced 107 bules cotton, with no better cultivation and the same hands. No manure used and none needed." The largest crop known to him was 56 bales from 40 acres, or 700 pounds lint per acre.

No. 9. A large farmer in Edgecombe county, N. C., reports the cost of cotton about 10 cents, "but many farmers can produce it at less." His crop from 75 hands was 300 bales cotton, 4,500 bushels corn, 13,403 pounds meat, 1,100 bushels oats, 450 bushels wheat, toes. He states the drawbacks to greater success, "too

many consumers to the number at work. following statements:—"The largest crop of clean cotton per acre within my knowledge is 2,000 but the standard of a profitable crop is not over 800 or 1,000 pounds; great improvements in seed and in tools; negroes migrating to the South and collecting in villages and towns; cost of cotton at present about 10 cents, but give us plenty of careful and intelimmigrants urgently wanted; inducements, good wages, cheap land and a hearty welcome; a great many arriving from the North and from abroad. Drawbacks to success are want of labor and trying to culti-vate too much land."

No. 11. A very admirable report from Bullock county, Alm., gives the following results:-"Crops-Cotton, 55 bales; corn, 2,200 bushels; outs, 1,500 bushels; pork 1,650 pounds; beef, 3,000 pounds; and 36 head of mutton, 136 chickens, 6 turkeys, 450 pounds butter, 6 barrels sugar, 13 barrels motasses, 46 bushels rice, 150 bushels pease, 200 bushels sweet potatoes. Ground pease and chufas sufficient to fatten bogs. Hands employed, 22, assisted by extra bands, equivalent to about 12 regular. the above are the products of two farms, situated near each other: one of the farms is bottom land; was overflowed in May and had to be replanted, making cotton iate. It was attacked by caterpillar about August 20, and by September 10 was stripped of its foliage and the crop on the place was barely half. My farms are managed by white superintendents, under my in-spection; my laborers are negroes, hired by the year r the month, averaging \$70 per year cash, with houses, vegetable gardens, wood and subsistence, three and a half pounds bacon and one peck of meal per week being furnished them." This gentleman stimates the cost of cotton at eight cents a pound and the largest possible crop per acre five bales. His statements of the drawbacks to greater success are "a want of more intelligent and progressive labor, cheap fertilizers and good roads." Immigrants are much needed, the advantages claimed are "good and cheap lands, abounding in grasses well adapted to stock, and will raise in abundance anything that can be raised outside the tropics, healthy chinate, two good rail-

roads and easy access to markets." A TOTAL BALANCE PROM PLORIDA.
No. 12. From Leon county, Fig., I have a crop state-

ment and total balance from a planter, who estimates the cost of cotton 8 to 10 cents:—Hands employed, 9; extra labor, \$500; cotton, 30 bales; corn, 900 bushels; onts, 1,000 bushels; meat, 6,000 pounds; syrup from sugar cane, 2,100 gallons; sweet potatoes, 1,200 bushels; frish potatoes, 200 bushels; pease, 200 oushels; pea-nuts, 100 bushels. The crop was consumed in making

More white labor is desired. The inducements of-rered are, "cheap lands, good climate, living easily made—too casily; hope soon to say low taxes," &c. This gentlemen is the owner of a ginning establishment in which the cotton of the neighborhood is prepared for market. His remarks on this subject are suggestive:—

The writer is the owner of one of the neighborhood in ginning establishments, where he runs two gins. Frequently his customers (nearly all negroes) on phringing in cotton will express a preference to one of the gins, because, as they say, the other gin takes out too many "motes." I have known them to alter the owner of the gins, so as to throw all the motes (urmatured see d) and sand in the instroom with the cotton, so as to get weight, and I am

almost convinced that it pays. It certainly does not pay to take pains to take all the sand from cotton as the market is at present controlled and regulated. I formerly ran all my seed cotton through a whipper or cleaner before ginning, thus clearing it of sand; but two experiments with the Savannah and New York markets convinced me that I was losing by the operation. Since then I have not used the whipper, but last season ran on my plantation a Remington needle gin, with condenser attachment, with a flue under the condenser to take off all dust, trash and sand. I made beautiful cotton and obtained better prices than any of my neighbors, but I fear not enough better to cover the loss in weight of the large pile of sand now lying under the flue of my gis. I see no remedy, except it be the purchasing of the cotton by the spinner from the producer.

In this connection a few words from a cotton manufacturer in Georgia also confirm my statements as to

acturer in Georgia also confirm my statements as to the unfit methods now practised:— The handling of the cotton from the day it is taken from the plant until it reaches the mill is barbarous in the extreme, acco panied by innumerable unnecessary pilierings. have just had two and a half days of heavy rain yet within half a block of where I write there are 1,000 bales of cotton turned into the street (for Liverpool) that have been in all of it and not thirty feet distant from the warehouse. Very few down here think of protecting coston from a rain storm and will usually tumble a bale into the mud and sand as readily as into a more proper place.

EDWARD ATKINSON.

THE CANADIAN PILGRIMS.

PROGRAMME FOR THEIR ENTERTAINMENT-THE MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL-THE ADDRESS TO

THE HOLY FATHER. This morning at daylight the Papal flag, side by side with that of the United States, will be holsted to the breeze on the St. Nicholas Hotel in honor of the arrival of the Canadian prigrims, who are expected to reach there at about nine o'clock. Below will be found the programme of the Pilgrim Reception Committee as furnished by Secretary W. J. Hughes:-

THE PROGRAMMS.

At eight o'clock the Reception Committee, compris-ing Rev. M. J. O'Farrell, Major D. Ketley, Jr., Eugene Kelly, James Lynch, Patrick Farrelly, Secretary Hughes, togother with deputations from several Catho-no societies, will go to the Grand Central Depot to welcome the pilgrims, whom they will escort in carriages to the St. Nicholas Hotel. After breakfast some of the party will, it is believed, avail themselves of the offer of a trip up the East River and a visit to some of the institutions on the Island. The steamboat Thomas Fletcher is to be stationed at pier 45 North River to await their orders. Should the weather not allow of the plous visitors. At eight P. M. a reception will be held in the St. Nicholas Hotel, when Mgr. Chatard, of the American College in Rome; Vicar General Quinn, Mr. J. S. Lynch, Father M. J. O'Farrell, and Fathe O'Reilly, of St. Mary's, will make addresses, to which Father Dowd, the chaplain of the Canadian pilgrims, will respond,

His Eminence Cardinal McCloskey will offer the mass for the pilgrims at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Mulberry street, at eight o'clock on Saturday morning, and will be assisted by Vicar General Quinn, Father O'Farrell be assisted by Vicar General Quinn, Father O'Farrell and Father Farrelly. The party at its conclusion will proceed either to their hotel or to the steamship City of Brussels, which sails at noon. A handsome attar has already been erected in the cabin of that vessel. A farewell address to the pligrims will be made by Mr. Richard O'Gorman. Among the American pligrims who will join the Canadians are General Newton and wife, Father Taft, of Brooklyn; ex-County Clerk Walsh, Mr. Dodin and others. The gitt of \$30,000, in poid, for the Pope from Canada is in the care of Father Dowd. The Rev. Richard Brannan, of this city, sends by Father Dowd, as an oliering to the holy Father, a superbly bound copy of the "Life of Pius IX.," recentiv written by him. Tagboats, with friends on beard, will accompany the City of Brussels down to Sandy Hook to when the pligrims "God speed." The three representatives of Cardinal McCloskey—Dr. McGlynn, Fathers Kearney and Ldward—to tender the offering of \$50,000 to the Holy Father, will not leave this city for Rome till next week. The following is the address to the Holy Father of the Canadian pligrims:—

Most Holy Fathers Holy Fathers to the Holy Father four Holy Fathers, Parick of the Canadian pligrims:—

The following is the address to the Holy Father of the Canadian pilgrims:—

Mort Hoty Farthan-The glad tidings of this privileged feast of Your Holineas resched the children of St. Patrick who live in the distant country of thands, and in the set of their hearts they commissioned us to carry to the feet of Your Holineas their hearts! courry of thands, and in the jet of their hearts they commissioned us to carry to the feet of Your Holineas their loving gitts.

As the representatives of the Catholics of the four diocesses of the ecclesiastical province of loronto, and also of the Irish Catholic lumbitants of the City of Montreal, and of the diocesse of Ottawa, in the Frovince of Quebec, we lett our distant homes, with the cordial blessings of our venerated orelates, in order to shake in this unique featival of the Catholic world, and bear our testimony to the universal joy and thankfulness with which your children in every region of the earth half the filteth anniversary of the opticupal consecration of Your Holiness.

In these most evil and perilous times, the preservation of the lite of Your Holiness beyond the days of Peter, and far teyond the term allowed to any in the long line of his successors, we regard as a clear manifestation of the first ages of Christianity, never, at any previous period, did the flock of Jesus Offrist obey more implications and love of God for His Church, Since the first ages of Christianity, never, at any previous period, did the flock of Jesus Offrist obey more implicitly in the sacrad person, while the heads of civil government in Europe—the official guardians of public right—either flersely persecute him, or timidly and treacherously low, on, as outrage after outrage is being heaped upon him. Most holy Father, in the midst of so many and such grievous trials, your indomitable courage has sustained you in the latified dieachage of the duties of your divine citice.

cither fiercely persecute blun or timidly and treacherously look on, as outrage after outrage is being heaped upon him. Most flody Pather, in the mide of so many and auch and the property of the mide of so many and auch in the laithful dacharge of the duties of your divines of the control of the conduct of the proclaim to rulers and to subjects alike, with intailible authority, the divine has to subjects alike, with intailible authority, the divine laws that should govern the conduct of both, and on the observance of which depend the stability and happiness of human society. Disregarding the solemn protests of Your Holiness, and in defiance of all justice, the governments of Kurope sanctioned, at least by connivance, the sponiation of rights the most sacred. The condition of Europe at this moment is the natural consequence of the fatal error then committed. The savage right of brute force, substituted for justice and moral duty, presents the sail spectacle of governments that exist only by the multitude of their solders, and of peoples who are banded together in widespread conspiracles, and live in a state of chronic revolution.

These evils must go on increasing until Christian society, alarmed too its own systemce, will return in good faith to the saving principles of truth, justice and moral duty, so often and so so-ennity proclaimed by Your Itoliness. The crimes of physical force against Your Holiness, and against the Catholic Church, must be expected by the full restoration of all pinneiered rights and possessions. Then, and independently the conditing prayer of the Galleria and complete triumph of the Church. We know that the "sternal crown" slone can fully reward the prolonged sor own and sacrifices of Your Holiness in defending the cause of Josus Christ; yet we do hope that Mary the Lumaculate, whon you taught us to honor with a porer and a more tending the class of your horoic and saintly career.

We, the children of St. l'atrick in a foreign land, are not unmindful of the special claims you, Most Holy

humble, grateful and devoted children of Your Holi-

THE DEPARTURE FROM MONTREAL.

The Irish pilgrims left here for New York this after-

MONTREAL, April 19, 1877.

noon. They were accompanied to the station by a large concourse of people. ABUSE OF THE INSANE.

A STRONG REPORT ON THE FLATBUSH ASYLUM-VOTING PAUPERS.

A lengthy report was made to the Kings county Board of Supervisors yesterday by the committee appointed by that body to investigate the alleged abuses said to be daily practised at the Flatbush Insane Asylum. It is claimed by them that great abuses exist, and they recommend that the medical staff and nurses of the asylum be compictely reorganized. The male nurses in some cases, had been found utterly incompetent and ignorant of the duties of their position. The corps of iemale nurses, the committee also considered it necesnary to change, as in some cases the stupidity dis played by them in the performance of their duties was only matched by the lack of common intelligence was only matched by the lack of common intelligence on the part of several other employes of the asylum. It is also declared by the committee that the superintendent of the asylum, together with his assistants, do not make a special study of insanity and are not the proper persons to have charge of insane people. The Superintendent of the Asylum for incurables had testified before the committee that mental diseases had been made a special study by him, and, in his opinion, many of the patients who had been removed from the lineane Asylum to the one under his control might have been cured had they received proper attention and care at the former place. It was recommended also by the committee that the asylum at Flatbush have a thorough overhauding. Everything was reported to be in good order at the Almahouse by the committee appointed to look after that institution. It was stated in their report, however, that on the gaupers only 160 could be found, and a rumor affoat was that the rest were voting at Flatbush or elsewhere. The Hoard of Supervisors was strongly urged by the committee to take such action in relation to the county institutions as would make them models of their kind instead of a standing disgrace to the county, as they now are. Balance......\$1,825

OUR COMPLAINT BOOK.

CARRIAGES AT THE GRAND CENTRAL DEPOT.

To the Emiror of the Herald:—
I wish to call your attention to the coupe and carriage ruces at the Grand Central depot, Forty-second treet, every day. It is not safe for a person to cross the street when a train is coming in; they are in danger of their lives. The sergeant and police ought to put a stop to it. The Police Commissioners ought to see that they do their duty and keep them from driving over only when they have got a call.

LADY COMMUTER.

A DELICATE QUESTION. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

Medals are given for saving life at sea. What shall he done with the captain, officers and crew of the steamship l.co, who provided for their own safety and left the two helpless lady passespers to perish? AN OLD SEAMAN.

BATTROAD COMMUTATION.

To THE EDITOR OF THE REEALD:-

continue to charge its commuters war prices, when the road makes its owners opulent and earns more money than any other in the country, having also larger surplus, is a mystery that should be unfolded to the interested patron. Why do they not reduce twenty per cent, as the New York Central and Tarlem rai-roads have done, but continue old war price-? Flay can far better afford it. AN OLD RAILROADER.

A DILATORY RECEIVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-Will you be kind enough to stir up, through the edium of your "Complaint Book," the receivership of the Security Life Insurance and Annuity Company of the Security life insufance and it is now some six months since the company went up, and i, as one of the victims, have heard nothing of it either one way or another. I think it is pretty near time something definite was known in regard to the matter.

A. VICTIM.

A WARNING TO WORKING WOMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

1 have a complaint against the Howe Sewing Machine Company. On July 21, 1875, I contracted to buy an \$85 sewing machine on instalments. I paid \$20 down, and, as per agreement, \$5 on the 21st day of each month, receiving a receipt in full on August 21, 1876. Yet every month since the agent of the com pany has called at my house demanding more money or threatening to remove the machine, and it is not until the receipt is hunted up each time that he de-parts. I have had it framed and hung over the ma-chine. The agent is evidently in hopes that I shall lose it, in which case I suppose I shall lose the money I have paid. My address senclosed. VICTIM.

> A GRATEFUL FIREMAN. LONG ISLAND CITY, April 16, 1877.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-We are very thankful for the interest you took in our case, and we are thankful that the insurance companies have taken up this complaint in our behalf as well as theirs. Heaven grant that it will not be long that we shall have a bell to give us an alarm, and the hasurance company will do us a favor never to be forgotten if they hurry up this complaint, as the people say that we race and run around the streets for nothing; but there is not much tun in dragging the benyy apparatus around the streets of Hunter's Point. Yours forever,

A FIREMAN.

RECKLESS USE OF PIREARMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-I would call attention to a nuisance at present exist ing caused by a great number of boys who have com-menced celebrating the glorious Fourth by firing a menced celebrating the glorious Fourth by firing a small pistol, paper caus being the ammunition used, I believe. I have had them snapped in my face several times, and think the police would be doing a good thing were they to put a stop to their use, thereby prevening some accidents which must of necessity occur, as their use is confined to small children, whose oyesight is endangered in the most reckless manner. NINTH WARD.

I wish to call the attention of our illustrious Police Commissioners to the fact that a common nuisance is at present carried on to a great extent in this city which is against the law, that is the persistency o small boys in firing percussion caps on toy pistols, thus endangering the lives of horses. The law says no firearms shall be used in the city limits. Why don't they enforce it, then? It is not only dangerous to horses, but to life in general.

"Tired of Taxpaying for Street Cleaning" sends Pourth and Madison avenues, has not been clean since the middle of October last year. That is enough without any comment, and who has ever cleaned the steps on the crossings of the railway (Fourth avenue), between Forty-ninth and Fifty-lifth streets? Our Lord in heaven sprinkles, and the trains of the ladies

clean and sweep.
"A Storekeeper" says that the corner of Chatham and Chambers, and in fact the whole block from Cham bers to Pearl street, is almost impassable on a windy day, as the dust blows so that one can hardly see.

"A Physician" would respectfully call the attention of the attent to the condition of Thirty-fourth street, between the river and Thirty-fourth street, between the river and Thirty-fourth street.

Thirty-fourth street, between the rivor and Third avenue. There was an attempt to cienn and sweet it a long time ago, by very old and decrept mash. It would oblige the residents if the attempt was made once more.

"Taxridden Tenant" asky our energetic Street Cleaning Bureau if residents 3n the west side of the Bowery are in the Fitteenth or Seventeenth ward. As the Fitteenth ward carriene pass their doors empty, and tell them they are in the Seventeenth, "Tenan," would like to place himself on some asman's route, for a barrel has stood on his sidewalk more than a month.

"K" insists that Forty-fifth street, between Second and Third avenues, is one of the most shameful sights in this city. On this one block are six loads of old came, cats, boots, brooms, dogs and dirt of all sorts. Positively it has not been swept from before beginning of winter till now. Dust and disease are in the air.

"Surgo at Prossim" would like to know what sense is there in the Street Commissioners having the dirt made into heaps in the streets, and then letting it romain? West Fourth street, Sixth avenue, was, thus decorated over four weeks ago, and I would like to know when the Commissioners will condescend to send carts to have it romoved.

"Complaints" thus describes his agony:—"Oh, the steech at nine o'clock last night in Forty-seventh street, pear Seventh avenue! Why are bone boding establishments allowed to poison the air and drive away the population?"

"One of the Sufferers" wishes to draw the attention of Mr. Douglass to the atominable nuisance the residents of Turty-sixth street, between Broadway and Seventh avenue, have to submit to. The street was partially swept about a week ago into piles two or three leet high and seventy-dive leet apart, resembling a row of prairie dog mounds, which are rapidly being destroyed by the passing vehicles and our April breezes. Another intolerable nuisance is the large display of dispidated carts, wagons, trucks, &c., which occupies outh sides of the street has frond-way. It may be that this

ANSWERS.

AN OFFICIAL DENIAL. FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, KNGINE COMPANY NO. 9, NEW YORK, April 19, 1877. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

Having invited "Indignant Parent" to visit engin-

house and identify parties mentioned in complaint, and nobody appearing up to the present time. I deem it my duty to deny the whole allegation and brand the same as a malicious falsehood. Respectivity yours, GEORGE W. ERB, Foreman Engine 9. SEATS FOR SALESWOMEN. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-

Piease correct a statement in your columns of the 16th by "An Observing Lady," who must have had "eyes and no eyes," else she would have observed that H. O'Neili & Co. have the very seals she suggests underneath their counters, and the saleswomen are allowed to sit when disengaged.

AN OBSERVING EMPLOYE OF H. O'NEILL & CO.

Naw York, April 16, 1877.
To the Editor of the Herald:—
My attention having been called to a communication in last Sunday's issue of the HERALD entitled "Militin Drills," purporting to emanate from these headquar-ters and agned "Robert Lepper, Acting Adjuant," I beg leave to state that it was not written by me or with my knowledge or authorization. Very respect-fully, ROBERT LEPPER, First Ligutenant and Acting Adjutant Twenty-second infantry. [The false card was written on official paper and in due form,—ED. HERALD.]

THE STATE CENTENNIAL

New York's Declaration of Independence, April 20, 1777.

FIRST CONSTITUTION ADOPTED.

The Empire Commonwealth's Part in the Revolution-Destruction of Kingston.

CELEBRATION THE INTENDED

On the 20th of April, 1777, in the town of Kingston

Ulater county, the representatives of the people, in convention, declared the State of New York absolved from all allegiance to the Crown of Great Britain, and on the same day the constitution they had framed was promulgated and went into effect. The free govern ment tormed has reached its one hundredth anniver sary, and preparations are in progress to celebrate the centennial of the independence of the Empire Com-monwealth. In accordance with historical propriety the services will take place at Kingston, and a number of the most distinguished men of the Repub he have been invited and are expected to be present on the occasion. The circumstances that led to the postponement for nearly one year of the formal separation of New York from the mother country are given below; and as the State has been charged with remissness in duty, and that she did not furnish her quota of troops during the Revolutionary struggle, a grance at her condition during the war will be sufficient to show how entirely unjust is the imputation. Availing themselves of the prevailing spirit of disaffection, the British officers who conducted the military operations against the revolted colonies directed their whole power against this State in the campaign of 1776-77, the prominent object being to provinces. At this time fully one-third of the population of New York was loyal, being composed of persons born in England and Scotland; another one-third was either butchered or driven away from the country by the savages, and the remaining were waging an unceasing warfare in defence of their firesides and their families. The city was occupied by a powerful army, the infant confederacy were so many campaigns per-formed, so many battles fought, so many dwellings burned, or so much suffering and loss of life as in the interior of New York. NEW YORK IN THE STRUGGLE POR LIBERTY.

independence was in progress, that her history is eminently worthy of preservation. As early as October, 1664, her citizens defied the power of the government and demanded a voice in the administration of public affairs, and never ceased to lead the opposi-tion to the Crown until the final separation of the colonies from Great Britain. In the acquittal of Peter Zenger, in 1745, New York established and maintained the first free press, and through that powerful instrument contributed more toward the cause of the American Revolution than did any other colony prior to the battle at Concord. In August, 1760, in her protection of the crew of the Samson, and in July, 1764, in the release of the four fishermen, she declared her hostility to the impressment of seamen and the right of search many years before khode Island or any other colony followed her example. In October, 1764, she appointed the first committee of correspondence, six years before Massachusetts and nine years before Virginia took any steps to act in a like manner. While all other colonies qualled be-fore the Parliament in 1764, admitting the supremacy of that body and the duty of the provinces to "yield obedience to an act of Parliament, though erroneous, until repealed," New York alone declared that she would consider a violation of her rights and privileges by Parliament an act of tyranny; that she would hate and abhor the Power which might inflict it, and that "as soon as she became able, would throw it off, or perhaps try to obtain better terms from some other When the Stamp act was enacted in 1765 she led the column of opposition; her merchants organized the non-importation agreement, and among the faith ful they were the most faithful in the execution of its provisions. The first blood that was shed in defence of the rights of Americans flowed from the veins of her innabitants on the Golden Hill, in this city, January 18, 1770, two monins before the massacre in King street, Boston, and over five years before the affair at Lexington. New York also, as well as flowton and Annapolis, had a tea party, and she as well as they seasoned the waters of her harbor with the taxed com-mentity which the capidity of the East India Commany

modity which the capidity of the East India Company and the insolence of the government had attempted to throst into her midst—differing from Boston only in doing fearloasly in broad daylight and without disguine what the latter had done with the objectionable tea in the darkness of night and in the guise of Mohawke. Lastly, when hostilistes had osen take a place in the very front rank of the armed opposition, or to prove by the daring of her sons hostile to that position by overthrowing the King's authority, and by establishing in its stead a committee of one hundred of her citizens long terror any similar stop was taken in any other part of the country. The brave and isacless actions of the "liberty Boys," which gave unmistakable evidence of the spirit that actuated the patriots, served a most valuable purpose; and it many what fights are also the purpose; and it many what fights the purpose; and it many a her fights of their country. This brief and imperfect record shows how well and fally New York performed her part in the Revolution, and may be considered also a proper preliminary statement to giving a sketch of the circumstances attending the adoption of the first constitution of the State.

The national Beclaration of Independence was approved by the New York Provincial Congress, then in sea the citize of "The Convention of the Coprese, then in sea the case of the New York." In accordance with the recommendation of the continental Congress them in the state of New York." In accordance with the recommendation of the continental Congress measures were soon taken for the formation of a State constitution. Accommittee was appointed for the purpose, and it was proposed to consider its provisions in this city, but the appearance of on a English fleet and army at States of New York." In accordance with the recommendation of the Congress measures were soon taken for the formation of a State constitution are constitution of New York was dopted and went into effect. It embraced the outlines of a popular government

dress. It was brief, but pertinent, and of course was almost entirely occupied with the engrossing subject of the war. The distinction enjoyed by Kingston was soon to cost at dear price. It was singled out for special punishment. Not much more than a month had passed by when it was actually razed to the ground by the orders of Sir Henry Clinton.

CHASGES IS THE CONSTITUTION.

After the Revolution, and when party movements became active, delects were pointed out in the constitution of 1777, and the great difficulty was that it do not contain any provision for its alteration or amendment. According to that instrument the Assembly and the Senate, especially the Sonate, were increasing in numbers to a degree extremely inconvenient. Differences arose as to nominations to office between the Governor and Council, and under these circumstances some changes became absolutely requisite. But the Legislature found themselves wholly unauthorized to pass a law which would warrant any class of mee to alter the old constitution or make a new one of the consideration that portion or the constitution which relakes to members of the Senate and Assembly, and also the section affecting appointments to office. The convention met in Albany in October, 1801. They soon agreed as to the limitation of the number of members of the Legislature. There was no difficulty in settling the question of nominations to office. The convention for the purpose assembled at Albany August 23, and was pressited over by Paniel D. Tompkins. Highly important changes were made and ratified by a popular majority of 74,000 in layor of a second revision of the constitution. A convention for the purpose assembled at Albany August 23, and was pressited over by Paniel D. Tompkins. Highly important changes were made and ratified by a popular majority of 74,000 in favor of a second revision of the constitution. A convention for the purpose assembled at Albany August 23, and was pressed over the particle of the constitution has been amonded four times since 1821—in 1

It is not alone, however, that in the patriotic and self-sacrificing course of this State, while the war for

New York, and it remained practically in force until superseded by the constitution that went into effect April 20, 1771.

Not long after the adoption and promulgation of the first constitution, Kingston, where the Convention had hold its essistions was wantonly destroyed by a royal force under the command of General Vaughan. At this time flurgoyne had advanced from the north at the head of a numerous and well appointed body of troops almost within striking distance of Albany, at which point he hoped to effect a junction with the southern army. It therefore became highly important to the success of this project that the British then in possession of this city should secure the forts in the Highlands and then obtain the command of the river On the 4th October, 1777, Sir Henry Clinton landed at Tarrytown with over 3,000 men, designing to mask the enterprise he had in view by threatening an attack upon Feckskill, at which place lay General Putnam with 1,000 Continental troops, Intelligence of the movement was at once conveyed to Governor Clinton, who held the rank of brigadier general in the army. He forthwith prorogued the Legislature and hastened to the defonce of the posts where his brother, General James Clinton, had been left in command of about six hundred mitta. These were Forts Montgomery and Clinton, which were attacked and after a vigorous resistance captured. The brothers Clinton narrowly escaped capture. No obstacle being now in the way, a naval force proceeded up the river with orders to burn and destroy every description of property belonging to the patriots that could be found. The Bestilla reached Krigston on the 18th October, 1777, and anchored in front of it. It was then the third town in the State and had a population of 3,500. The houses were substantially boult of stone, and some of them were exceedingly handsome structures. The inhabitants well understood the intentions of their visitors and hastily took to flight, removing with them all the valuables.

A PKARFUL SCENE OF DEVASTATION.

A PEARPUL SCENE OF DEVASTATION. The royal troops landed in two detachments under the command of General Vaughan, and formed a junction on an elevation close to the town. They so once marched into the place and commenced the work of destruction. The torch was indiscriminately applied in every quarter, and, besides the dwellings and stores, a large amount of valuable property was consumed. struction. The torch was indiscriminately applied in every quarter, and, besides the dwellings and stores, a large amount of valuable property was consumed. Every house in the flourishing village except one was laid in ruins. The Connecticut Journal of October 27, 1777, thus describes the savage occurrence:—"The conflagration was general in a few minutes, and in a short time that pleasant and wealthy town was reduced to ashes. Only one house escaped the flames. Thus by the wantonness of power a place remarkable for its elegance and wealth is reduced to a heap of rubbish, and the once happy inhabitants (who are chiefly of Dutch descent) obliged to solicit for shelter among strangers, and those who possessed intely costly and convenient dwellings, obliged to take up with such buts as they find can defend them from the cold blasts of approaching whiter. Its said they took little time to plander, being told that General Canton was at hand with 1,500 men, but unhappily not so near as to save the town. They burned several vessels and houses at the landing and then scampered of precipitately to their ships. Next day they burned several houses at Rhinebeck Flats as far as Livingston Manor, where they burned a few more. Our troops are now up with them, and it is hoped they will be able to put a stop to their deprodutions." The enemy was forced to return to the city, having totally failed in carrying out Burgopyne's design, and very soon after that office had to surrender his entire army at Saratoga to the patriots, a dance than sufficient officet for the mistoritunes and allictions endured by Kingston and its inhabitants and the cruelties practised there by Streng Cinton and General Vaughan. The burning of the town was one of the least detensible acts of the royal commanders during the war of independence, and caused a feeling of deep entity and indignation among the people for very many years after its occurrence. The inhabitants were particularly noted for their decidence and the control of the continuary cause.

rence. The inabilitats were particularly noted for their devotion and sacrifices in the Revolutionary cause.

THE CELEBRATION,

The celebration at Kingston will be conducted on an imposing scale. President Hayes and the members of his Cabinet, Governor Robinson and the Governors of adjoining States and other distinguished citizens in different parts of the country are expected to be present. The citizens of the town will perform their part toward making the centennial worthy of the historical events it is to commemorate. The civic and military procession, it is believed, will be a grand affair, as pritations have been sent to all portions of the State-to-such bodies to participate in the celebration. A committee has been formed to take charge of the matter, it consists of Colonel John McKatee, chairman; General D. T. Van Buren, Colonel C. D. Westbrook, Captain Jacob H. Tremper, Major Edward O'Reilley and Lieutenant Colonel C. Coddington. The entire State interested in the centennial, and great efforts will be used to make it a success.

The firstonical society's Cherentarios.

The New York Historical Society will celebrate the centennial with suitable exercises. The arrangements have been all completed for carrying out the programme on the hundredth anniversary of this most important event in the annals of the State. The oration on the occasion will be delivered by Charles O'Conor, who took a very prominent part in the Convention of 1846, and who is distinguished for being the author of many of the most valuable provisions of the present fundamental has of the Commonwealth. It was originally intended that the society's celebration should take place on the 24th inst., but it has been postponed to the Sth of May.

CORONERS' OFFICE NOTES.

A post mortem examination made by Deputy Coroner Miller of the body of Margaret Croly, whose death was supposed to have occurred under suspicious circumstances, revealed that her decease was due to

metro-peritonitis
Deputy Coroner McWhinnio investigated the case of the unknown woman who died in a Rivington street drug store on Wednesday night and found that the cause of death was Bright's discusse of the kidneys,
The deceased was identified as Rosa Foorti, aged fortyeight, of No. 114 Clinton street.
The Coroner was notified of the deaths of Thomas

The Coroner was notified of the deaths of Thomas Brennan, at Ninety-ninth street hospital, from an accidental fall down stairs at No. 34 East 110th street, and of Bernard McDermott, a child, who was scalded by a boiler of hot water questing, at No. 117 West Twenty-sixth street.

The death of Mr. J. B. Young was also reported from the Chambers street Hospital. An account of his fail from a window and his descent upon an iron rod, which impaired him through and through, was published yesterday in connection with a statement he made just after the occurrence. The formal antemortem statement taken by the Coroner does not vary from the original one, and the deceased showed that his fall was purely accidental.